

ATTR Syntax: Attr filename [permissions] Usage : Examine or change the security permissions of a file Opts: -perm = turn off specified permission perm= turn on specified permission -a =

inhibit

s - no

to own

pw -

Syntax:

one de

single

Basic0

filename

CHD S

specifi

directory to specified path

Usage: File comparison utility COBBLER Syntax: Cobbler devname

Usage: Creates OS-9 bootstrap file from current boot

CONFIG

Syntax:

Syntax:

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[e] [x]

names

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AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

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Display s converted characters to standard output DSAVE Syntax: Dsave [-opn] [dev] [pathname] Usage: Generates procedure file to copy all files in a directory system Opts: -b make a system disk by using OS9boot if present -b=<path> = make system disk using path

process b do not makdir

command o num K standard

ECHO Syntax: Standard oriented

output ED text

text editor error messages for given error numbers EX Syntax: ex <modname>

Usage: Chain to the given module FORMAT Syntax: Format

<devname> Usage: Initializes an OS-9 diskette Opts: R - Ready L

- Logical format only "disk name" 1/2 number of sides 'No of

AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER
Newsletter of the National OS9 User Group

EDITOR : Gordon Bentzen

HELPERS : Bob Devries and Don Berrie

SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 User Group.

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Let's talk about utility programmes. Hands up those of you who quickly write a programme in (dare I say it?) Disk Extended Colour Basic, to do a particular job for a particular time, and then promptly turn off the computer when that job is done ? Quite a few of you I'll bet. I know I do it all the time. Have you ever considered that you have just written, and destroyed, a programme that might be useful to someone else ? And above all, with a little bit of extra thought, could be written in BasicOS9?

Oh sure, I can hear you say, why would I turn on the computer, boot up OS9, and then load up BasicOS9 just to run a ten line programme ? Well, I am here to say that it is a very good idea to try it anyhow. There is a programme elsewhere in this issue, written by Bob Devries, that started out life just as a little half-a-dozen lines to find the file descriptor information of a particular file. The information required was the creation date of a source-code listing, and, as we all know, the DIR E command only tells us the date of last modification, not its creation. So, having found out how to read the file descriptor, Bob put this to further work and after a few hours work, out popped 'UpperDir' a Utility Programme to rename all directory files to uppercase and all normal files to lower case.

You know, I'd like to hear from other people who have perhaps put together a few ideas like that to do a task and, even if it does not work as expected, send it to us here at the newsletter, and we may be able to add some more code to make it work better, or do more yet. Sometimes, I find that I start writing a programme to do something, and find when I am part-way through that I can't finish it because of lack of experience or not enough knowledge of the subject. What happens then is that usually it gets forgotten, or picked up again much later. Sometimes I wonder if someone else could perhaps continue with it to make it turn out correctly. Of course, the best idea would be to talk with people at the local user group, but that is usually still three weeks away, and I need help NOW! When this happens to you, drop us a few words on paper (or disk) and we will endeavour to set you straight if possible. Don't forget, we three are not super programmers either, so don't expect miracles, and please give as full an explanation of what you want as you can.

Well, I guess it's time to remind you about your subscriptions. They are due at the end of THIS month. Please get those cheques away as soon as possible so that we can decide whether it was all worth it. I for one have learnt a lot from writing in this newsletter, and from having to read the manual whenever I had to cover a subject I was not too sure about. I know I am speaking for the three of us when I say that I'd like to continue for another year, so how about it fellows ? Make my day, send that cheque!

Topics covered in this month's newsletter include 'UpperDir' by Bob Devries, more explanations about the 'Edit' utility (that word again) by Don Berrie, and also of course, more of Bob's Database in 'C'. I'd like to see more questions coming to us from you people out there, even if you've found out the answer yourself in the mean time, don't forget that others may have similar problems. At a local user group recently, I showed some-one how to use the Config programme to set up a double sided OS9 system disk (Oh, don't blush, friend). I'm sure there are others who have the same problems, including difficulties in setting up Multi-Vue and other programmes.

Well, that's about all for this month, happy computing,

Regards,
The Editor.

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MACROS: Continuing a Tutorial for the OS9 Macro Text Editor

Two of the most overlooked features of the Macro Text Editor are its ability to handle more than one file at a time, that is multiple buffers, as well as its ability to handle quite complex macros. It is not really surprising that these features are overlooked, because the manuals (both Level 1 and Level 2) leave much to be desired in their explanations. First of all, let's look at multiple buffers.

Why do we need multiple buffers? Well consider the following. We are writing an article for the newsletter using good old EDIT, and we decide that, as an example, we want to include our startup file into the text to illustrate a point. Ever tried it? If, like most people that I know, you looked in the manual to see how to do it, couldn't understand it, and gave up and used Stylograph; read on.

The other (and I guess the most important) reason for having the ability to edit multiple files is of course for our friends with Level 1 systems, or for those with Level 2 systems which don't support windowing. (Yes, some Level 2 systems don't have that ability.) Back to our example. For the purpose of this tutorial, we decide that we want to edit the text before we import it into our document. To do this, we load the new (ie /dd/startup) file into a DIFFERENT buffer. (We could have imported the whole file into our document, and then edited it, but that doesn't serve the purpose of this example.) We do this by switching to a new buffer :

B0

When EDIT is started, by default there are two buffers already defined, the primary buffer (denoted by *), and the secondary buffer (denoted by \$). At startup, the primary buffer is always buffer 1, and the secondary buffer is buffer 0. So the command B0 makes buffer 0 into the primary buffer. You can only operate on the text contained in the primary buffer. Rather than make buffer 0 the primary buffer, you could have equally typed :

B6

and created buffer 6 (if it did not already exist), and made it the primary buffer. I don't know how many buffers you can create, but you are limited (initially at least) only by the amount of memory available. Remember the [#nK] command line modifier from last months installment. To display the buffers currently defined, type :

.DIR

(Don't forget the full-stop.) This will show you a list of the currently defined buffers, with the primary buffer marked with an asterisk, and the secondary buffer marked with a dollar sign. It will also show a list of MACROS currently defined. We will come to those later.

Next, we will need to load the text into the new primary buffer. This is a two step process. The first thing to do is to tell the editor the new filename. This is where the confusion starts. To do this you need to use the :

.READ "pathlist"

command. The parentheses are necessary. Therefore our command line becomes (in my case at least) .READ "/H0/startup". So far we have only told the editor the name of the file that we wish to edit. Next we must actually read the file into the buffer. To achieve this we use the :

Rn

command, which causes the editor to read n lines. (eg R* reads the whole file into the buffer, if it will fit). As the editor is loading text into the buffer, it displays the lines as they are read. From here on, we edit the file as per normal.

When we have the text in the format we desire for incorporation into the original document, we use the :

Pn

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command. This is where the concept of defined primary and secondary buffers becomes important. The Pn command PUTS n lines of text into the secondary (in our case buffer 0, where we just were) buffer. Remember, that the buffer last used, becomes the secondary buffer. (Use the .DIR command if you are not sure where you are.) If we were to switch to the original document using the B1 command, we could then load text from the secondary buffer (now buffer 0, the last buffer that we used), by the use of the command :

Gn

This command GETS n lines from the secondary buffer. The thing to remember, is that both G and P operate only between the primary and secondary buffers, whatever their numbers may be.

Other commands that you may wish to use are the W command, which writes n lines from the current buffer to the pathname as defined in the initial command line, or by a .READ command. The Vn command turns on (n=0) or off (n=any other number) the verify command. This will prevent the editor from echoing lines to the terminal. You need to exercise care with the use of the V command, because it will also prevent listing of your document to the screen using the Ln command!

As with the previous article in this series, you may use both upper or lowercase for these commands.

Next month, we will discuss the editing of files larger than the workspace, and start on the concept of MACROS, and hopefully we will provide a macro to delete lines of text and display the next line in the file, rather than the one just deleted (a quirk of this editor which I find absolutely infuriating!!). Until then keep up the good work.

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A Database in C
By Bob Devries

Here are two more parts to my C Database programme. The first is 'help.c' and provides a help screen documenting all the commands available, and the second is the 'find.c' routine which allows you to find a particular record in the file.

The 'help' command clears the screen with a call to the 'cls' function, and prints a series of lines to the screen, and then waits for a keypress. When a key is pressed, it clears the screen and returns to the main programme.

The 'find' function prints up an empty shell for the data entry, and then asks for the surname to be found. It then goes looking for the record that matches that name. If found, it is displayed, and that record becomes the current record. If it is not found, 'Not Found' is printed on the status line, and the last record is displayed. Note that the programme is very litteral in its search, and does not differentiate between upper and lower case. So make sure you get it right. Perhaps someone can devise an easy way to overcome this limitation.

```
help()  
/* pressing h from the data screen will clear the screen and display the */  
/* help message, then wait for a keypress. the main() function then re- */  
/* displays the data screen. */  
{  
    char ch;  
    ch = '\0';  
  
    cls();  
    printf("\n\n\n      a = amend (edit) displayed record.\n");  
    printf("      p = goto previous record.\n");  
    printf("      n = goto next record.\n");  
    printf("      i = insert new record.\n");  
    printf("      d = delete displayed record.\n");
```

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```

printf("      f = find a record by surname.\n");
printf("      m = find another record with same criteria.\n");
printf("      h = help (this screen).\n");
printf("      e = exit from programme.\n");
printf("\n\n      Press any key to return...");
ch = getch();
cls();
}

find()
/* find() locates the first occurrence of the surname which is input and */
/* returns the record number of that record */
{
    char nametmp[21];           /* temp surname variable */
    int temprec;                /* temporary current record */
    long lof;

    temprec = 0;
    fseek(fp,01,2);
    lof = ftell(fp);
    cls();
    scrnmask();                /* display empty screen mask */
    cursor(10,23);
    eraselin();                 /* erase message line */
    cursor(10,23);
    printf("Input surname to be found."); /* print prompt */
    cursor(14,5);
    gets(nametmp);             /* get surname to be found */
    cursor(10,23);
    eraselin();                 /* erase message line */
    do {
        temprec += 1;
        fseek(fp,(long)(temprec - 1)*sizeof(mail),0);
        if (ftell(fp) < lof) /* read until eof */
        {
            fread(&mail,sizeof(mail),1,fp);
        }
        else
        {
            cursor(10,23);
            eraselin();
            cursor(10,23);
            printf("Not found.");
            break;
        }
    } while ((strcmp(nametmp,mail.surname) != 0));
    return(temprec);           /* return record number of wanted file */
}                                /* or last record if not found */
}

```

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LABEL PRINTER This is another BasicOS9 programme submitted by Phil Frost of Kalgoorlie. Phil states "the label_Printer programme arose from the need to re-label disks after a re-organization of my collection." We thank you Phil for sharing this programme with us, and no doubt other members will also find it useful. The programme will help you print labels to attach to disks, and contains all the necessary instructions when run. I note that Phil has included printer codes for a Tandy DMP-130, however his commented source will make it very easy to alter the codes to suit any other printer.

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```
PROCEDURE label_printer
(* One Line Printer programme for 3 1/2 x 15/16 labels
(* For Printing Labels
(*
(* by Phil Frost
(*
(* The Printer Codes are Set for a DMP-130 Printer
DIM printer:BYTE
DIM a$:STRING[35]
DIM b$:STRING[42]
DIM c$:STRING[60]
DIM select:BYTE
(*
OPEN #printer,"/p":WRITE
(*
50 PRINT CHR$(12);
PRINT \ PRINT \ PRINT
PRINT TAB(33); "LABEL PRINTER."
PRINT \ PRINT
PRINT TAB(23); " 1/ Normal      35 Characters per Line"
PRINT
PRINT TAB(23); " 2/ Compressed 42 Characters per Line"
PRINT
PRINT TAB(23); " 3/ Condensed  60 Characters per Line"
PRINT
PRINT TAB(23); " 4/ End "
PRINT \ PRINT
PRINT TAB(33);
INPUT "Select",select
ON select GOTO 200,300,400,500
200 PRINT
PRINT TAB(10); " Type quit or QUIT to end input"
PRINT TAB(10); " 35 Characters Per Line"
PRINT TAB(10); " ****"
PRINT TAB(9);
INPUT a$
IF a$="quit" OR a$="QUIT" THEN
GOTO 50
ELSE
ENDIF
PRINT #printer,CHR$(27); CHR$(19);
PRINT #printer,a$
GOTO 200
300
PRINT TAB(10); " Type quit or QUIT to end input"
PRINT TAB(10); " 42 Characters Per Line"
PRINT TAB(10); " ****"
PRINT TAB(9);
INPUT b$
IF b$="quit" OR b$="QUIT" THEN
GOTO 50
ELSE
ENDIF
PRINT #printer,CHR$(27); CHR$(23);
(* set compressed character
PRINT #printer,b$
```

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```
GOTO 300
400
PRINT TAB(10); " Type quit or QUIT to end input"
PRINT TAB(10); " 60 Characters Per Line"
PRINT TAB(10); " ****"
PRINT TAB(9);
INPUT c$;
IF c$="quit" OR c$="QUIT" THEN
GOTO 50
ELSE
ENDIF;
PRINT #printer,CHR$(27); CHR$(20);
(* set condensed character
PRINT #printer,c$;
GOTO 400
500 PRINT #printer,CHR$(27); CHR$(19);
(* reset printer to normal mode
CLOSE #printer
END
```

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The Public Domain Library.

We have received a number of requests from members for a complete listing of the Public Domain files of the National OS9 User Group. The task of providing this however, is not as simple as it sounds. Rob Devries reviewed some 34 archived files in last month's newsletter which provided information about each of the files. This month we include a simple directory listing of another disk from the library which includes many files published in past newsletters. Please refer to this newsletter listing if you want any of these files, and order in the usual way, i.e. Post formatted disks with return postage plus \$2.00 copy charge for each disk, and of course, specify the files or other disks required.

Directory of /d2/ASM/CMD\$
util dmode mverify mrename ar09 ar

Directory of /d2/ASM/HELP
ar.doc

Directory of /d2/C_MW/CMD\$
lsn0 database lb ls rdump hxd

Directory of /d2/C_MW/SRC
lsn0.c database.c ansi.h lb.c rdump.c
hxd.c

Directory of /d2/C_MW/HELP
most_c.2 os9hxd.art

Directory of /d2/BASIC09/CMD\$
zap ohms label_printer upperdir

Directory of /d2/BASIC09/SRC
zap iconedit ohms_law label_printer
upperdir.B09

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Directory of /d2/SHELLSCRIPT
cc1_cc2 cc1_patch

Directory of /d2/SHELL

shellplus	shellplus.doc	shellplus.install
loglock.on.scr	loglock.off.scr	wild.on.scr
wild.off.scr	noblock.on.scr	noblock.off.scr

*>SHELLPLUS.2.1

Directory of /d2/SHELL/SHELLPLUS.2.1

shellplus	shellplus.doc	shellplus.install
atcheck.on.scr	atcheck.off.scr	loglock.on.scr
loglock.off.scr	wild.on.scr	wild.off.scr
noblock.on.scr	noblock.off.scr	shellscrip
param.a	param.bin	sdate.a
sdate.bin	prompt.bin	

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UpperDir, A BasicOS9 Utility.

By Bob Devries.

I've had heard several times in the past the complaint that it is impossible to tell files and directories apart in OS9. The answer of course lies in good housekeeping, and by having all files in lowercase characters, and all directories in uppercase characters. Well, that's all very good, but what if you've already got them all in uppercase like the OS9 level one disks as they were supplied by Tandy? Of course a utility programme is the answer. And here it is. I have called it UpperDir.

It opens the current working directory, and reads the filenames one by one, and decides whether they are files or directories, and renames them using lowercase or uppercase as is necessary. If they are already correct then no changes are made.

Please note that this programme requires that you have 'Rename' in memory or the current execution directory, or it will not work. If you forget this, the UpperDir will terminate with an error.

I have also written a version in 'C', which does not require 'Rename' to work, but does the renaming itself. I will be presenting that version in a future newsletter.

```
PROCEDURE UpperDir
0000  (* UpperDir - CopyRight (c) 1989 By Bob Devries
000F  (* Freely distributable.
0047  (* UpperDir reads the current directory, and changes all
007F  (* the directory names to UPPERCASE, and all the files to LOWERCASE
0002  (* It uses the 'Rename' utility, so be sure it is in memory
00FD  (* or in the execution directory.
011E  (* Version 1.00 Date 12th July, 1989.
0143  BASE 0
0145  TYPE direct=fname:STRING[29]; fsect(3):BYTE
0160  DIM entry:direct
0169  DIM dirpath:BYTE
0170  DIM path:BYTE
0177  DIM name,newname:STRING[29]
0187  DIM attr:BYTE
018E  DIM changed:BOOLEAN
0195
0196  attr=0
019D  name=""
01A4  newname=""
01AB  OPEN #dirpath,".":READ+DIR
01B7  GET #dirpath,entry
```

```

01C1    GET #dirpath,entry
01CB    WHILE NOT(EOF(#dirpath)) DO
01D6 1    GET #dirpath,entry
01E3    IF LEFT$(entry.fname,1)=CHR$(0) THEN
01F6      GOTO 30
01FA    ENDIF
01FC    RUN extname(entry,name)
0208    ON ERROR GOTO 10
0211    OPEN #path,name:READ
021D    ON ERROR
0220      GOTO 20
0224 10    ON ERROR
022A    ON ERROR GOTO 15
0230    OPEN #path,name:READ+DIR
023C    ON ERROR
023F      GOTO 20
0243 15    PRINT "File "; name; " inaccessible."
0264    ON ERROR
0267      name=""
026E      newname=""
0275      GOTO 1
0279 20    RUN readfd(path,attr)
0288    EXITIF attr=-1 THEN
0298      PRINT "Error in Syscall 'GetStt SS.FD call'"
02C0    ENDEXIT
02C4      changed=FALSE
02CA    IF LAND(attr,$80)=$80 THEN
02DB      RUN upper(name,newname,changed)
02EF    ELSE
02F3      RUN lower(name,newname,changed)
0307    ENDIF
0309    PRINT newname,
030F    IF changed=TRUE THEN
031A      SHELL "rename "+name+" "+newname
0331    ENDIF
0333    CLOSE #path
0339      name=""
0340      newname=""
0347 30    ENDWHILE
034E    CLOSE #dirpath
0354    PRINT \ PRINT "Finished !"
0364    END

PROCEDURE extname
0000    TYPE direct=fname:STRING[29]; fsect(3):BYTE
001B    PARAM entry:direct
0024    PARAM name:STRING[29]
0030    DIM i:INTEGER
0037
0038    FOR i=1 TO 28
0048    EXITIF ASC(MID$(entry.fname,i,1))>127 THEN
005E      name=name+CHR$(ASC(MID$(entry.fname,i,1))-128)
0078    ENDEXIT
007C      name=name+MID$(entry.fname,i,1)
0091    NEXT i
009C    END

PROCEDURE upper
0000    PARAM name:STRING[29]

```

```

000C  PARAM newname:STRING[29]
0018  PARAM changed:BOOLEAN
001F  DIM i:INTEGER
0026  DIM char:INTEGER
002D
002E  FOR i=1 TO 29
003E    char=ASC(MID$(name,i,1))
004D    IF char>96 AND char<123 THEN
0060      newname=newname+CHR$(char-32)
0070      changed=TRUE
0076    ELSE
007A      newname=newname+CHR$(char)
0087    ENDIF
0089  NEXT i
0094  END
PROCEDURE lower
000C  PARAM name:STRING[29]
000C  PARAM newname:STRING[29]
0018  PARAM changed:BOOLEAN
001F  DIM i:INTEGER
0026  DIM char:INTEGER
002D
002E  FOR i=1 TO 29
003E    char=ASC(MID$(name,i,1))
004D    IF char>64 AND char<91 THEN
0060      newname=newname+CHR$(char+32)
0070      changed=TRUE
0076    ELSE
007A      newname=newname+CHR$(char)
0087    ENDIF
0089  NEXT i
0094  END
PROCEDURE readfd
0000  PARAM path:BYTE
0007  PARAM attr:BYTE
000E  BASE 0
0010  TYPE registers=cc,a,b,dp:BYTE; x,y,u:INTEGER
0035  TYPE seglist=ln(3):BYTE; nosec(2):BYTE
0050  TYPE filedes=att:BYTE; owner:INTEGER; date(5):BYTE; link:BYTE ; sz(4):BYTE; creat(3):BYTE;
seg(48):seglist
0095  DIM regs:registers
009E  DIM fd:filedes
00A7  DIM GetStt:BYTE
00AE  DIM SS_FD:BYTE
00B5  GetStt=$80
00BD  SS_FD=$0F
00C5  regs.a=path
00D1  regs.b=SS_FD
00D0  regs.x=ADDR(fd)
00EB  RUN syscall(GetStt,regs)
00FA  IF LAND(regs.cc,1)=1 THEN
0100    attr=-1
0114  ELSE
0118    attr=fd.att
0123  ENDIF
0125  END

```